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ACTION ARA-15

1/4/79

N009 R

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 HA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08  
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ISO-00 /113 W  
-----071985 050040Z /14

R 041910Z JAN 79  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8932  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny  
Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part (X) In Full  
( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to  
Date Declassify on Reason

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USEEC

E.O. 12065: GDS 1/3/85 (FREEMAN, ANTHONY F.) OR-L  
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE LABOR LEADER RETURNED TO HOUSE ARREST STATUS

REF: A) 78 BUENOS AIRES 6768; B) 78 BS. AIRES 8357

1. LORENZO MIGUEL, FORMER HEAD OF THE ARGENTINE METAL-  
WORKERS UNION AND OF THE 62 PERONIST LABOR UNION MOVE-  
MENT, WHOSE DETENTION STATUS (SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE  
CURRENT MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN MARCH 1976) WAS LIBERALIZED  
LAST SEPTEMBER TO PERMIT HIM TO RETURN TO HIS FAMILY  
RESIDENCE IN HOUSE ARREST STATUS, WAS REARRESTED  
DECEMBER 29 BY POLICE OFFICERS AND TAKEN TO FEDERAL  
POLICE HEADQUARTERS. HE REMAINED THERE UNTIL JANUARY 2  
WHEN HE WAS ESCORTED BACK TO HIS HOME.

2. POLICE HAVE NO OFFICIAL EXPLANATION FOR MIGUEL'S  
72-HOUR REARREST, BUT HAVE INTIMATED THAT IT STEMS  
FROM MIGUEL'S HAVING VIOLATED HOUSE ARREST REGULATIONS  
WHEN HE HELD A TALK IN HIS HOME WITH JORGE DANIEL

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PALADINO, A FORMER PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
LATE JUAN DOMINGO PERON. PALADINO WAS ALSO BRIEFLY

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HELD BY POLICE BEFORE BEING RELEASED.

3. PERONIST PARTY LEADERS AND LEADERS OF THE TRADE UNION COMMITTEE OF 25 SENT TELEGRAMS TO PRESIDENT VIDELA, PROTESTING MIGUEL'S ARREST. THE "25" ALSO ASKED THE BRUSSELS-BASED ICFTU UNION ORGANIZATION TO INTERVENE WITH GOA AUTHORITIES ON MIGUEL'S BEHALF.

4. WITH THE CONNIVANCE OF A FRIENDLY POLICE INSPECTOR (PROTECT)--UNDOUBTEDLY A CHUM FOR THE DAYS WHEN MIGUEL WIELDED MUCH POWER IN THE SHADOWY WORLD IN WHICH THE INTEREST OF RIGHT-WING BOSSES AND POLICE AND MILITARY CHIEFS (AND POSSIBLY ALSO THE INFAMOUS TRIPLE A COUNTER-TERRORIST ORGANIZATION) CONVERGED SEMI-CLANDESTINELY DURING THE LAST PERON GOVERNMENT--MIGUEL HAS BEEN HOLDING COURT AT HIS HOME SINCE LEAVING PRISON LAST SEPTEMBER RECEIVING A LARGE NUMBER OF LABOR AND POLITICAL FIGURES, IN INCREASINGLY MORE BLATANT VIOLATION OF HIS HOUSE ARREST STATUS.

5. HIS BRIEF ARREST MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN CONNECTED WITH REPORTS IN LABOR CIRCLES THAT THE COMMITTEE OF 25 IS PLANNING A NEW UNIFICATION DRIVE FOR THE LABOR MOVEMENT (WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE THE RIVAL "CNT" FACTION) WHICH WOULD ENVISAGE THE CALLING OF A GENERAL STRIKE AGAINST THE ECONOMIC POLICIES OF ECONOMY MINISTER MARTINEZ DE HOZ. ACCORDING TO THE RUMORS, UNDISCLOSED MILITARY CHIEFS HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING THE TRADE UNIONISTS TO PROCEED WITH PLANS FOR SUCH A STRIKE, AND SOME SOURCES PRESUME THAT MIGUEL IS

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INVOLVED, AND MAY EVEN BE A CENTRAL FIGURE, IN THE PLOTTING. (COMMENT: WE TEND TO DOUBT THE FEASIBILITY OF SUCH A STRIKE PLAN. AT ANY RATE, WE DO NOT SEE SUCH A MOVE AS IMMINENT.)  
CASTRO

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